

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Lowell W. Gresham on July 14, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Title, immediately after "Current Producing Surface", -- for a Wound Dressing -- was inserted.

In Claim 18, line 4, immediate before "pliable dressing", -- the face of -- was inserted.

Claim 10 was deleted and replaced with the following:

A wound dressing comprising:

a primary surface of a pliable dressing material, wherein the pliable dressing material is adapted to be applied to an area of damaged tissue;

a first design formed from a first ink that includes a mixture of a polymer and a first element, the first ink being printed into a position of contact with the primary surface, the first element including a metal species, and the first design including at least one dot, wherein selective ones of the at least one dot have approximately a 1.5 mm +/- 1 mm mean diameter;

a second design formed from a second ink that includes a mixture of a polymer and a second element, the second element including a different metal species than the first element, the second ink being printed into a position of contact with the primary surface, and the second design including at least

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one other dot, wherein selective ones of the at least one other dot have approximately a $2.5 \text{ mm} \pm 2 \text{ mm}$ mean diameter;

a spacing on the primary surface that is between the first design and the second design such that the first design does not physically contact the second design, wherein the spacing is approximately $1.5 \text{ mm} \pm 1 \text{ mm}$; and

at least one repetition of the first design and the second design, the at least one repetition of the first design being substantially adjacent the second design, wherein the at least one repetition of the first design and the second design, in conjunction with the spacing between the first design and the second design, defines at least one pattern of at least one voltaic cell for spontaneously generating at least one electrical current when introduced to an electrolytic solution.

Claim 11 was deleted and replaced with the following:

A wound dressing comprising:

a primary surface of a pliable dressing material, wherein the pliable dressing material is adapted to be applied to an area of damaged tissue;

a first design formed from a first ink that includes a mixture of a polymer and a first element, the first ink being printed into a position of contact with the primary surface, the first element including a metal species, and the first design including at least one hexagonally shaped dot;

a second design formed from a second ink that includes a mixture of a polymer and a second element, the second element including a different metal species than the first element, the second ink being printed into a position of contact with the primary surface, and the second design including at least one other dot, the at least one other dot including two hexagonally shaped dots that are spaced from each other;

a spacing on the primary surface that is between the first design and the second design such that the first design does not physically contact the second design; and

at least one repetition of the first design and the second design, the at least one repetition of the first design being substantially adjacent the second design wherein multiple repetitions of the first design and the second design result in at least one pattern characterized by the first design being surrounded by six hexagonally shaped dots of the second design, wherein the at least one pattern defines at least one voltaic cell for spontaneously generating at least one electrical current when introduced to an electrolytic solution.

Claim 14 was deleted and replaced with the following:

A method of making a wound dressing comprising:

applying a first fluid to a face of a pliable dressing material to form a first design, wherein the first fluid includes a first biocompatible polymer and a first element;

applying a second fluid to the face of the pliable dressing material to form a second design such that the second design is not physically contacting the first design, wherein the second fluid includes a second biocompatible polymer and a second element;

repeating the first design and the second design to create a pattern that alternates between the first design and the second design;

fixing an absorbent cloth layer to a back of the pliable dressing material, wherein the back of the pliable dressing material comprises a surface opposite the face of the pliable dressing material; and

bonding an elastic adhesive layer to the absorbent cloth layer such that there is at least one overlapping piece of the elastic adhesive layer for securing the face of the pliable dressing material over an area of damaged tissue in a manner that allows the first and second elements of the corresponding first and second fluids to be introduced directly to the area of damaged tissue.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 10, 11, 14, 17-19 and 35 are allowed.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Burton (U.S. 4,067,342) discloses a tape electrode comprising a plurality of isolated conductive surfaces providing a pattern of dots on a surface of a tape substrate.

Gadsby et al. (U.S. 4,852,571) discloses a disposable electrode comprising a base sheet having a layer of carbon ink printed thereon and a layer of silver/silver/chloride ink applied to the carbon layer (also by printing).

Gadsby et al. (U.S. 2003/0074042) discloses a differential gel body for a stimulation electrode comprising an oversized x-ray transparent cover sheet on its back surface, the cover sheet comprising an insulative foam and having an adhesive layer on its patient facing peripheral edges for securing the electrode over to the skin of a patient.

Lahr (U.S. 3,774,592) discloses a body electrode comprising a flexible tape having an adhesive material and an absorbent pad on its patient facing side.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JESSICA REIDEL whose telephone number is (571)272-2129. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl H. Layno can be reached on (571)272-4949. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jessica L. Reidel/
Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3766
July 16, 2008

/Kennedy J. Schaeztle/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3766
July 20, 2008